Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 (ISO) W
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R 221037Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8283
CNO WASH DC
INFO SECDEF WASH DC
JCS WASH DC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
COMSIXTHFLT

SECRETCAIRO 11390

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: OCLR, EG

SUBJECT: NPW TRANSITS OF THE SUEZ CANAL

REF: (A) STATE 97463, (B) CAIRO 9848

- 1. AT DINNER LAST EVENING FOR DEPARTING FRG AMBASSADOR, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TALK WITH DEPUTY PRIMIN AHMED SULTAN'S PRINCIPAL AIDE, MAHER ABAZA, AND TOLD HIM OF AVAILABILITY RADM CHEWNING. I AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE A GREAT DEAL THAT CHEWNING ABLE TO REVEAL AND ASKED HOW MAHER ENVISAGED CHEWNING BRIEFING. I ALSO CONFIRMED THAT NO RADIATION MONITORING OR ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS ARE PERFORMED IN PANAMA CANAL DURING OR AS RESULT OF USNPW TRANSITS.
- 2. ON PERSONAL BASIS, MAHER SUGGESTED THAT MAY 2-3 WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST DATES FOR SULTAN. HE THOUGHT I SHOULD FIRST TAKE CHEWNING TO MEET WITH SULTAN FOR A PRIVATE CHAT SECRET

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AND THEREAFTER A SLIGHTLY ENLARGED MEETING MIGHT CONTINUE IN LATTER'S OFFICE. HAMMOUDA AND PERHAPS ONE OR TWO OTHERS MIGHT BE PRESENT, BUT NOT THE ENTIRE SPECIAL COMMITTEE. HE WAS SURE THAT SULTAN, AFTER INITIAL PRIVATE TALK, WOULD TRY TO GUIDE EGYPTIAN QUESTIONERS TO AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS. HE WAS HAPPY TO HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT NO RADIATION MONITORING TAKES PLACE IN PANAMA CANAL AND

REITERATED THAT CHEWNING SHOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS TO MAKE THIS POINT DURING TALKS WITH SULTAN, HAMMOUDA AND OTHERS.

- 3. MAHER ALSO INDICATED THAT GAMASY HAS SENT SULTAN A COPY OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO FONMIN KAMEL INDICATING HIS AGREEMENT THAT USNPW'S BE ALLOWED TO TRANSIT SUEZ CANAL ON BASIS OUR STANDARD STATEMENT. GAMASY'S ENDORSEMENT, MAHER NOTED, WILL BE OF GREAT HELP.
- 4. PLEASE ADVISE IF RADM CHEWNING CAN COME MAY 2-3 FOR TALKS WITH EGYPTIANS. EILTS

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